

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
FINAL POLLUTION REPORT**

DATE: February 26, 2004

SUBJECT: Final Pollution Report  
Fund-lead Removal Activities at the  
Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site  
Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

FROM: James W. Webster, Ph.D., On-Scene Coordinator  
Emergency Response and Removal Branch, EPA Region 4

TO: RRC for Distribution  
NPFC Case Officer  
USCG District 5  
Project File

**I. BACKGROUND**

FPN:	P99524
PROJECT CEILING:	\$25,000
LEAD AGENCY:	USEPA-Region 4, ERRB 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, GA 30303
NPL:	N/A
FUNDING:	OPA
LEAD OSC:	James W. Webster
PARTY CONDUCTING ACTION:	USEPA-Region 4, ERRB

**II. SITUATION**

DATE OF NOTIFICATION:	21 August 1999
DATE OF ACTION STARTED:	23 August 1999
POLLUTANT:	Heating Oil
QUANTITY DISCHARGED:	Unknown

SUBSTANTIAL THREAT:	Medium
SURFACE WATER:	Unnamed tributary of Robinson Creek
SOURCE IDENTIFICATION:	CTS / Abandoned Facility

### **III. ACTIONS TAKEN / HISTORY**

An EPA-OSC discovered the oil spill on August 21, 1999 during emergency response actions for the Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site (CERCLA Site ID# A4P5). A nearby spring was found to be contaminated with what appeared to be heating oil. The spring feeds the headwaters of an unnamed tributary of Robinson Creek in Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina. Robinson Creek is in turn a tributary to the French Broad River.

Approximately 30 lateral yards of the creek was observed to be contaminated including saturated sediments and soil and oiled vegetation. The EPA OSC requested OPA funds to initiate cleanup actions at the spring and creek.

After oil contaminated soil in the creek bottom was removed, a semi-permanent underflow structure was constructed in the creek downstream from the spring. Afterward the OSC and contractor monitored the stream and removed oil as necessary.

During the week of May 7, 2001, EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) and an ERT contractor collected soil samples from beneath the floor of a nearby abandoned industrial facility. The results of the investigation indicate that contaminated soil to a depth of at least 30 feet. Analytical results indicated the presence of trichloroethylene (TCE) and a petroleum hydrocarbon (likely diesel fuel). The finding supports the hypothesis that the former industrial facility is the source of contaminants discharging at the springs on the adjacent property.

The current lead EPA OSC visited the site on April 24, 2002 and did not observe any oil discharging at the spring or collected behind the underflow dam. An EPA START contractor visited the site in February 2003 and observed the same conditions although the former lead OSC visited the site in June 2003 and reported that a sheen developed when bottom sediments within the stream were disturbed. TCE continues to be released at the spring.

EPA executed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) that became effective on January 22, 2004 with CTS Corporation and Mills Gap Associates.

### **IV. FUTURE ACTIONS**

The AOC requires the Respondents to conduct a removal at the site to address contaminated soils beneath and proximate to the former industrial facility and to access

removal options at the spring. It is anticipated that future removal activities at the spring will be performed as an enforcement-lead activity.

#### **V. ESTIMATED COSTS**

FPN CEILING:	\$25,000.00
FUNDS EXPENDED:	\$11,442.00